- Integrated pest control techniques
- Information regarding the market and mandi prices
- Procurement of crop through FSC and tie-up with marketers for sale of produce.

To extend credit to the farmers, ICICI Bank has associated with extension service providers, input companies marketing companies, NGOs and Sugar companies. ICICI Bank has already taken up pilot funding programmes for financing the farmers through these intermediate channels. The pilot programmes have been conducted in different geographic locations across the country and in crops like paddy, wheat, groundnut, fruits and vegetables, cotton etc. The success of the pilot programmes demonstrated last year has given an impetus to ICICI Bank's direct agriculture lending programmes and they are being scaled up with the corporate partners across the country.

**Financial aid to Tamil Nadu**

2121. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Tamil Nadu has sought Rs. 3000 crore package to meet the present financial crisis in the State;

(b) whether request has also been made to rescind the limit of borrowing capacities of the State Government for implementation of development programme; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It would not be possible to open a new window for non-plan assistance to States other than what was recommended by the Finance Commission nor does the current economic slowdown affecting States and the Union in equal measure make it feasible for the Centre to allot any additionality as grants. Regarding restrictions on borrowings for development programmes, there is need to limit further growth of debt

raised by State owned enterprises backed by State Government guarantees. This is necessary in view of the high level of total outstanding debt and guarantees of most State Governments including Tamil Nadu. Bringing such borrowings within the descipline of Article 293(3) of the Constitution is a prudent step towards fiscal consolidation for which the Government of India requires the support of all the States.

**DRF for backward districts**

2122. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of Rs. 2,500 crore Development Reform Facility (DRF) to support the most Backward District and States;

(b) the quantum of funds disbursed; and

(c) the names of the districts benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (c) The Union Government in its Budget Estimates for 2002-03 have provided Rs. 2500 crore under the Development Reform Facility, for policy reforms in sectors which are constraining growth and development in the States. The guidelines of the facility are under formulation by Planning Commission.

**Net bank credit to women**

2123. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance propose to increase the level of net bank credit to women from 2 per cent to 5 per cent in three years;

(b) the details of schemes which will enable women to avail 5 per cent credit from financial institutions for the next three years;

(c) what is the projected coverage of women entrepreneurs through these programmes, State-wise; and

(d) the number of women's cells set up in various States to provide information and counselling for such projects?